

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Reexamination of the captioned application is respectfully requested.

A. SUMMARY OF THIS AMENDMENT

By the current amendment, Applicants basically:

1. Editorially amend the specification.
2. Respectfully traverse the objections to the drawings (see enumerated paragraph 3 of the office action and section B infra).
3. Amend claim 1 and the specification on the basis of, e.g., lengths of cavity sides as illustrated, e.g., in Fig. 2.
4. Add new claim 20.
5. Respectfully traverse all prior art rejections (see section C infra).

B. THE DRAWINGS

Enumerated paragraph 3 of the office action alleges that the Greek letters alpha and θ (theta), illustrated in Fig. 1a and Fig. 1b, respectively, are not mentioned in the description. The Greek letter alpha is indeed mentioned on page 4, line 34. Applicants do not understand the comment regarding the alleged absence of the Greek letter θ (theta), as Applicants do not see the Greek letter θ in Fig. 1b. Accordingly, the Examiner is respectfully requested to withdraw the objection regarding the Greek letters alpha and either to clarify or withdraw the objection regarding the Greek letter θ (theta).

C. PATENTABILITY OF THE CLAIMS

Claims 1 and 3-5 stand rejected under 35 USC 103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Publication 2004/0056560 to Wange et al. in view of U.S. Publication 2002/0008078 to Hatamura et al. Claim 2 stands rejected under 35 USC §103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Publication 2004/0056560 to Wange et al. in view of U.S. publication 2002/0008078 to

Hatamura et al as applied to claim 1 above and further in view of U.S. Patent 6,362,706 to Song et al. All prior art rejections are respectfully traversed for at least the following reasons.

Both independent claim 1 (as amended) and new independent claim 20 require a

cavity comprising an opening ..., the opening comprising at least four sides, two of the sides having an equal length, the equal length differing from lengths of remaining sides, and the opening having at least two different adjacent angles.

The applied references fail to teach or suggest, e.g., limitations of Applicants' independent claim 1 pertaining to the configuration of the cavity. For example, neither U.S. Publication 2004/0056560 to Wange et al. nor U.S. Publication 2002/0008078 to Hatamura et al. teach or suggest a cavity having two sides of equal length, the length of the two sides of equal length being unequal to any other side of the cavity.

The office action identifies cavity 850 of U.S. Publication 2004/0056560 to Wange et al. In Fig. 7I the cavity 850 of Wange is shown and stated (see paragraph [0043]) to be rhombus-shaped (all sides appearing to be equal). Therefore, Wange with its pure rhombus-shaped cavity does not provide a basis for denying patentability of independent claim 1.

U.S. Publication 2002/0008078 to Hatamura et al. relates to fabricating protrusions, not cavities. But even if spaces between the Hatamura protrusions were considered as cavities, the illustrated regular spacing between the Hatamura protrusions shows that Hatamura does not teach or suggest, e.g., a cavity having two sides of equal length, the length of the two sides of equal length being unequal to any other side of the cavity.

In view of the foregoing, Applicants believe amended independent claim 1 to be allowable. Should the Examiner be of a contrary opinion, Applicants reserve the right to raise further grounds of patentability and to argue that the combination of U.S. Publication

2004/0056560 to Wange et al. with U.S. Publication 2002/0008078 to Hatamura et al. is improper, e.g., uncombineable as being from unrelated fields of endeavor. (Hatamura pertains to fabricating a sliding member).

D. MISCELLANEOUS

In view of the foregoing and other considerations, all claims are deemed in condition for allowance. A formal indication of allowability is earnestly solicited.

The Commissioner is authorized to charge the undersigned's deposit account #14-1140 in whatever amount is necessary for entry of these papers and the continued pendency of the captioned application.

Should the Examiner feel that an interview with the undersigned would facilitate allowance of this application, the Examiner is encouraged to contact the undersigned.

Respectfully submitted,
NIXON & VANDERHYE P.C.

By: /H. Warren Burnam, Jr./

H. Warren Burnam, Jr.
Reg. No. 29,366

HWB:lsh
901 North Glebe Road, 11th Floor
Arlington, VA 22203-1808
Telephone: (703) 816-4000
Facsimile: (703) 816-4100